

Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116  
Expedited Procedure  
Technology Center 1700

Application No.: 10/573,591  
Art Unit: 1797

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the pending application is respectfully requested on the basis of the following particulars.

1. In the claims

As shown in the foregoing LIST OF CURRENT CLAIMS, the claims have been amended to more clearly point out the subject matter for which protection is sought.

Claims 1-14 remain canceled.

Claim 15 is amended to incorporate the indicated allowable subject matter of claim 18.

Claim 17 is amended to correct a minor informality.

Claim 18 is canceled and the subject matter thereof added to amended claim 15.

Claim 24 is amended to incorporate the indicated allowable subject matter of claim 27.

Claim 27 is canceled and the subject matter thereof added to amended claim 24.

Claim 29 is amended to depend from amended claim 15 instead of canceled claim 18.

Claim 30 is amended to depend from amended claim 24 instead of canceled claim 27.

It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added, since the changes merely merge previously presented claims, correct minor informalities, and change the dependencies of existing claims.

Claims 16, 19-23, 28 are left unchanged.

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Entry of the LIST OF CURRENT CLAIMS is respectfully requested in the next Office communication.

2. Rejection of claims 15-17, 20, 22, 24-26, and 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. patent no. 5,755,855 (*Baker et al.*) in view of U.S. patent no. 3,225,517 (*Wachsmuth*)

This rejection is rendered moot by the inclusion in amended claims 15 and 24, from which the remaining claims depend, of the indicated allowable subject matter of claims 18 and 27, respectively.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

3. Rejection of claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. patent no. 5,755,855 (*Baker et al.*) in view of U.S. patent no. 3,225,517 (*Wachsmuth*), and further in view of U.S. patent no. 5,048,548 (*Ramsey, Jr.*)

This rejection is rendered moot by the inclusion in amended claim 15, from which claim 21 depends, of the indicated allowable subject matter of claim 18.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

4. Rejection of claim 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. patent no. 5,755,855 (*Baker et al.*) in view of U.S. patent no. 3,225,517 (*Wachsmuth*), and further in view of U.S. patent no. 6,085,549 (*Daus et al.*)

This rejection is rendered moot by the inclusion in amended claim 15, from which claim 23 depends, of the indicated allowable subject matter of claim 18.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

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5. Rejection of claims 15 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. patent no. 5,755,855 (*Baker et al.*) in view of U.S. patent no. 6,865,877 (*Yoshida et al.*)

This rejection is rendered moot by the inclusion in amended claim 15, from which claim 19 depends, of the indicated allowable subject matter of claim 18.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

6. Allowable subject matter

The applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 18, 27, 29, and 30. Accordingly, the subject matter of claims 18 and 27 has been added to independent claims 15 and 24 respectively.

7. Comments on statement of reasons for allowance

On page 8 of the Office action, the reasons for allowance state that “the compressor has liquid injection at the exit of the compressor.”

It is respectfully submitted that this statement is not entirely accurate.

In particular, while the compressor element does have liquid injection, this injection is not limited to any particular position within the compressor.

Instead, the injected liquid in the compressor is *separated* at the exit in a heated state by a liquid separator, and the heat of the separated liquid is then used to re-heat the gas mixture.

It is believed that, for at least this reason, amended claims 15 and 14 are patentable in view of the cited prior art.

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8. Conclusion

As a result of the amendment to the claims, and further in view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that every pending claim in the present application be allowed and the application be passed to issue.

Please charge any additional fees required or credit any overpayments in connection with this paper to Deposit Account No. 02-0200.

If any issues remain that may be resolved by a telephone or facsimile communication with the applicant's attorney, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the numbers shown below.

BACON & THOMAS, PLLC  
625 Slaters Lane, Fourth Floor  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314-1176  
Phone: (703) 683-0500  
Facsimile: (703) 683-1080

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Respectfully submitted,

/Patrick M. Buechner/

PATRICK M. BUECHNER  
Attorney for Applicant  
Registration No. 57,504